

News Release

Ballston Spa's Clean Tech Early College High School Named 21st Century Learning Exemplar One of 16 schools recognized nationwide for 2015-16

Ballston Spa, NY, December 1, 2015 P21, the leading national organization advocating for 21st Century learning, has designated the Ballston Spa Central School District's Clean Technologies & Sustainable Industries Early College High School (Clean Tech ECHS) as an Exemplar School. This nationwide initiative identifies models of exemplary 21st Century learning practices that are preparing students for success from across the United States. Now entering its 4th year, the 21st Century Learning Exemplar Program shares case studies of schools and districts that have successfully transformed student learning through innovative practices.

"This designation is a tribute to our faculty, staff and partners in business, industry, and higher education who work tirelessly to provide this opportunity for students from throughout our region," said Joseph P. Dragone, Ph.D., Superintendent, Ballston Spa Central School District. Further, "The teaching and learning that occurs is truly transformational and we are honored to have the program receive this national recognition."

Following a rigorous application process, P21 program evaluators were on-site last spring and met with students, parents, business partners and staff as they conducted their evaluation of the program. Programs are evaluated based on criteria in the areas of college and career readiness, educational support systems, engaging learning approaches, student access to 21st Century learning, student acquisition of 21st Century knowledge and skills, and partnerships for sustainable success.

"Every student deserves to experience authentic 21st Century learning," said Dr. Helen Soulé, P21 Executive Director. "P21 is proud to highlight the hard work exhibited by all P21 Exemplars as they redefine what teaching and learning means for students and educators in a world where learning doesn't stop."

Case studies on schools recognized for 2015-16, including Ballston Spa's Clean Tech ECHS, will be unveiled in 2016, and join the 41 additional schools previously highlighted. Please visit www.p21.org for a list of current exemplar schools, case studies, powerful learning stories, podcasts, videos, and more. Please visit www.bscsd.org/cleanTech.cfm for additional information about the Clean Tech ECHS Program.

School Overview:

Ballston Spa Central School District's Clean Tech ECHS was developed in 2011 by the district in partnership with Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). The program continues to develop its relationships with over 45 partners in business and industry, government, non-profit and higher education organizations to provide authentic learning experiences for students. The program has grown regionally from originally serving 25 students in two school districts, to now serving almost 300

students from across 25 school districts in ten counties. The program was designated as a Smart Scholars ECHS in 2011 and as a New York State P-TECH school in 2013. Students earn credits towards an Associate's Degree in one of four career pathways including Clean Energy, Computer Science & Information Systems, Mechatronics, and Entrepreneurship, Leadership & Innovation.

P21 recognizes that all learners need educational experiences in school and beyond, from cradle to career, to build knowledge and skills for success in a globally and digitally interconnected world. Representing over 5 million members of the global workforce, P21 is a catalyst organization uniting business, government and education leaders from the U.S. and abroad to advance evidence-based education policy and practice and to make innovative teaching and learning a reality for all. Learn more at www.p21.org and [#P21Learning](https://twitter.com/P21Learning) [#PatternsOfInnovation](https://twitter.com/PatternsOfInnovation).

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